Oil and Gas Production at Bombay High

4526. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of oil platforms at Bombay High which are at present engaged in the extraction of oil and gas ;

(b) what is the production of oil and gas at Bombay High during the last three years against the Target fixed for the same; and

(c) the quantum of foreign exchange saved on account of the availability of oil and gas at Bombay High

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) 63 platforms are presently producing oil and associated gas in Bombay Offshore.

(b) The details of production in Bombay offshore region are :—

Year	Crude Production (MMT)		Associated gas prod. (MMSCM)
	Target	Actual	Actual
1985-86	20.61	20.82	5180
1986-87	20.27	20.62	6705
1987-88	19.92	20.16	8229

No target for gas production was fixed as the associated gas production is incidental to oil production.

(c) In the absence of crude oil production from Bombay offshore, an equivalent quantity would have had to be imported. The national value of Bombay offshore crude at average price per tonne of cruded imported in that year is as follows :—

	Rs./Crores
1985-86	5059
1986-87	2824
1987-88	3425

Natural Gas is not imported and accordingly, there is no direct impact on foreign exchange. It is however used as a substitute for certain petroleum products and, to the extent that this saves on the imports of such products, it has an indirect impact on fireign exchange.

Import of Drugs for Control of TB

4527. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are purchasing large quantities of Rifampicin Caps for TB Control Programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import of the above drug, although permitted under the import policy has not been allowed in order to support high price of domestic production of around Rs. 3033/- per kg.

(c) whether it is also a fact that above decision has pushed up domestic price by Rs.1000 per kg. and has

also effected Government expenditure on that account; and

(d) what steps have been taken to get formulation at cheaper prices after arranging for their imports which cost Rs.1850/- per kg. only?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Rifampicin (150mg.) capsules are purchased on DGS&D rate contract for use under National TB Control Programme. The quantity of Rifampicin (150mg.) capsules purchased during 1987-88 and 1988-89 are as under : —

Period	Qty. in lakh capsules
1987-88	80 lakhs
1988-89	150 lakhs

(b) The import of Rifampicin is allowed under the Appendix 3A (list of limited permissible items) of the Import & Export Policy 1988—91. Recently, M/s Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited have been allowed an import of 12 tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Import of drugs is regulated by Import & Export policy 1988—91 which has been placed on the Table of the House.

Allotment of Kerosene Oil to Kerala

4528. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allotment of kersoene oil has been made to Kerala by the Central Government during the last three quarters of the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has been allocated kerosene oil during the first three quarters of the current year in accordance with the existing kerosene allocation policy, the details of which are given below :—

Quarter (1988)	Total allocation (in tonnes)
January—March	59481
April—June	55511
July—September	58910

Merger of Pandharpur and Sholapur Divisions with Aurangabad Division

4529. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pandharpur and Sholapur Divisions of Posts and Telegraphs are to be merged with Aurangabad Division: and

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH):

Department of Posts

(a) There is no proposal to merge Pandharpur and Sholapur Postal